

Come experience some of the finest hiking in the United States.
Visit the Ice Age National Scenic Trail in Wisconsin!

The Ice Age Trail covers more than 1,000 miles over many beautiful areas in Wisconsin. The Ice Age Trail starts in western Wisconsin and passes eastward across the state. Many sections of the trail lead through the beautiful backcountry of Wisconsin. Other sections pass directly through quaint Wisconsin towns. Many hikers opt to walk small sections of the trail, but some people hike the entire trail.

People hiking the Ice Age Trail will see many important historical places. For example, the trail passes through four different state parks and several state forests. All of the **sites**, or places, are important because they show the history of the last ice age.

An **ice age** is a period of much colder than normal temperatures. **Glaciers**, or large sheets of ice, can cover large areas of land during an ice age. In North America, during the ice ages, ice covered large areas of land—including almost all of Wisconsin—for more than a million years. During this time, many plants and animals were killed by the moving ice. Some species went **extinct**. When a species goes extinct, no more individuals of that species are alive.



Glaciers (like this one in Alaska) once covered much of the United States.

The last ice age ended about 10,000 years ago. The ice gradually melted, leaving behind many interesting **landforms**. Landforms are features on Earth's surface. Landforms are often caused by ice, water, or wind. Hikers on the Ice Age Trail will experience many beautiful landforms. Most of these landforms were formed by ice scraping very slowly across Earth's surface.

Hikers will notice many landforms that occurred because of the ice. These landforms include lakes, rolling hills, moraines, kettles, kames, and outwash plains. **Moraines** are ridges made of gravel and rock that are pushed forward by the glaciers. Kettles are dents (or depressions) in the earth that formed when ice melted. Kames

The Ice Age Trail

are cone-shaped hills that formed when water flowed through the ice, leaving behind sand and gravel.

Along with moraines, outwash plains are large, flat, and sandy areas. Outwash plains formed when the ice melted and formed streams that spread over very large areas. These landforms are only some of the features that hikers can see along the Ice Age Trail. To learn more about the unique landscape of Wisconsin, visit the Ice Age Trail.



Hikers of the Ice Age trail will see many moraines, which are hills formed by glaciers.